

weeks we have summarised the main charges and criticised them. We are only desirous, as the representative organ of the Nursing profession, of one thing—that the Nursing departments of our great Hospitals throughout the country shall be so managed as to be of the greatest possible advantage to the sick, and to Nurses. Sadly, but deliberately, we are obliged to conclude that this department at the London Hospital is in a state of absolute chaos and disorganisation—dangerous to the patients, detrimental to the Nurses, and destructive of all real Nursing. From all that we have heard, we believe that the other departments of the Institution are in a state of the highest efficiency. It is evident to everyone with whom the responsibility rests; and that the most drastic measures must be speedily adopted if the London Hospital is to be saved from incurring public condemnation to an extent which will be perhaps irremediable.

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#### NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

*In consequence of pressure upon our space in order to enable us to give a full report of the recent annual meeting held by the British Nurses' Association in Birmingham, we are reluctantly compelled to leave over until next week both*

#### OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

#### PART I.—MATERNAL.

AND

#### PRACTICAL LESSONS IN ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS.

BY ARTHUR HARRIES, M.D.,

AND

H. NEWMAN LAWRENCE, MEMBER INSTITUTION  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.

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#### BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Second Annual Meeting of the Association was held on Friday, August 1st, 1890, at two p.m., at the Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham, Dr. Malins presiding.

MISS WOOD (Honorary Secretary) read the circular convening the meeting and then the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, which were duly confirmed by the Chairman.

DR. BEDFORD FENWICK (Honorary Secretary) read the Annual Report of the General Council, as follows:—

The General Council has the pleasure to make its Second Annual Report to the meeting of Members.

The progress of the Association during the past year has been one of steady but constant advance. The number of Members upon its roll has now reached two thousand nine hundred and ten, an increase which must be deemed most satisfactory, considering how much more stringent the regulations for the admission of Members have been made during the past twelve months. As will be seen by referring to the income and expenditure account, the Association is also in a position of strong financial prosperity. It has now an invested capital of £950, and other valuable assets.

The time and thought of the General Council during the past year has been almost entirely absorbed with the work of Registration. After the last Annual Meeting a strong feeling was expressed that before the system was commenced, the co-operation of every Nurse-training Hospital in the United Kingdom should be invited, and that each should be offered a share in the control of the scheme. As a matter of courtesy and justice, therefore, this was done, but—as was expected—nearly all declined to accept the proposal. Even those who thoroughly approved the principle of Registration argued that to control Nurses who had left the Hospital service was no part of the work which Hospital Committees exist to carry out. The General Medical Council, as the Medical Parliament, was next consulted, as a matter not only of courtesy, but almost as a duty. It carefully considered the question, and passed an unanimous resolution, which in effect approved the system as one which “would be much to the advantage to the public, and particularly would be of much convenience to practitioners of Medicine and Surgery.” But the General Medical Council did not consider that it would be within its province to take any active part in the work. Having thus done all in its power to persuade others to undertake the scheme, the General Council—as it prophesied in its report last year would be the case—found itself compelled to initiate Registration itself. It received the warm support of many of the leaders of the medical profession, and finally in January last the first Registration Board was appointed. The influential names upon the Board prove incontrovertibly what a powerfully representative body it is. The necessary rules and regulations were most carefully drawn up with legal assistance, and the Register of Nurses was opened in February. Up to this time more than one thousand seven hundred Trained Nurses have been accepted by the Board, and their names, addresses, and nursing qualifications registered. Applications are still steadily coming in and being carefully considered, and it is hoped that the first Annual

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